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The Evangelical Movement: Where do We Go From Here? (10 min.)

Future - Barrett typology

1. Immediate - to 1 yr. from now
2. Near term " 5 yr.
3. Middle range " 5-20

- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
7. Near future - after
As 10 billion up to
end of solar system

8. Far future - after
100 billion, up to
death of all the stars

Historians have as bad a record in predicting the future, as did most brokers in anticipating the October Wall St. crash. We do better with the past. Besides, my name is Miffett, not prophet. ^{Japanese proverb - He who can see 3 days ahead will be rich for 3,000 years.} And futurologists scare me

But I'd like to make a stab at it, limiting myself to evangelicals in world mission. And only the ^{middle-range} near-future (up to 5 yrs. from now)

First, I think in the short-range future, evangelical activity in world mission will continue to go up. The rise in evangelical mission personnel ~~which~~ first attracted the attention of the major denominations about 30 years ago. And as one mainline misanthropist, David Stone of the UCC, put it

- ① The traditional missionary sending ~~for~~ system is stumper than ever.
- ② The foreign missionary force is at an all-time high and still growing
- ③ But the center & gravity of Protestant missionary-sending is shifting ^{away} ~~away~~ from the 'ecumenical' agencies toward conservative & fundamentalist ones. In the 1960s the latter took the lead over NCC-related mission boards, and that trend [is still persisting]...

Polit. Cate makes an important

Second, in terms of church planting and church growth in the third world, ~~and~~ the evangelical movement will continue to go up from here - but not at the same ^{rapid} rate as the rise in western missionary personnel, and not in all sectors of the evangelical movement.

The two groups in the evangelical ^{missionary} movement that promise greatest vitality are the ^{of charismatic} pentecostals, and the ~~Southern Baptists~~ independents, like Southern Baptists.

A lower rate of ~~mission~~ progress in missions seems to be developing in ^{the} evangelical missions of the "faith missions", and the smaller evangelical denominations ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~EFMA~~ associated with the ^{two wings} evangelical mission associations, the EFMA & the IFMA.

Dave Barrett foresees the responsibility for evangelical world evangelization passing to 3rd world missions, especially to charismatic groups - Korean, Chinese, Latin American & African.

But all this upward optimism will quickly lose its steam unless evangelicals stop self-destructing, and their schisms and divisions and lack of coherent, cooperative planning for mission is fast becoming ~~the~~ a major obstacle to their future. I suggest

① Evangelical ~~mission~~^{mission} evangelism must have greater Biblical, social and intellectual content if it is to both Christian and relevant in the world of the 21st century

② Evangelical mission in social action must relate itself more closely to Biblical theology and evangelism if it not to repeat the mistakes of ^{the} western mainline mission.

③ Evangelical missions must actively promote greater joint planning & cooperation in world mission with two groups - ① the fast-growing surge of 3rd world missions, and ② evangelicals ~~who~~ in the mainline, conciliar Protestant churches who connections with ~~the~~ massive constituencies of conciliar, mission-organized churches in the third world are still enormously significant for the future. 8 of the largest 15 churches in the 3rd world are conciliar-based.

④ Evangelical mission must seek a better balance between church growth & the unity of it expects the momentum ~~it~~ that has carried/made ~~it to world wide~~ ~~mission~~ it a major factor both in

2 verses for the future: - J. X. Same yesterday today +
- Behold I ~~make~~ all things new.